

even extended to thunder storms, as she pointed out that "... if you can see enough blue sky to make a sailor a pair of pants, then you know the storm is clearing up." Consistent with her philosophy, no matter how hard it was raining, she was always able to see a patch of blue sky, even when no one else could see it. Importantly, she has shared this philosophy with the children she taught in school, and with her own family.

Jessie's life spanned most of the twentieth century. She saw both Halley's Comet and Mark Twain in 1910, waved goodbye to relatives as they sailed for France in World War I, manned a coastal watch tower in World War II, and watched Americans walk on the moon. The Great Depression had a great impact on the family and on their views about investments and savings.

She has dedicated her life to her family, and imbued them with a strong devotion to each other, a love of learning and education, and a strong sense of patriotism. And it should be noted that she loves all her grandchildren, even though some of them have joined the Democratic Party.

Jessie continues to enjoy life and looks forward to the family celebration on November 5th. The family will also remember to vote on that date, but the most important event of the day for them will be "Nana Jessie's" 100th birthday.

PETER V. BARRETT, MD
MARTHA B. BELL

STATEMENT ON SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE ENERGY ACT

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, on September 19, 2002, I submitted a statement during the meeting of conferees for H.R. 4, the Securing America's Future Energy Act. During this session, House conferees approved a burdensome electricity title that could do irreparable harm to how rural Missourians receive power. Because this portion of the energy bill could have a significantly negative impact on rural America, let me take this means to share my statement with all members of the U.S. House of Representatives. Set forth text as follows:

I want to thank the leaders of the energy bill conference for holding this important meeting today. Although I have been appointed a conferee to this energy legislation because of its provisions related to the military, I come before you today to share my support for rural electric cooperatives and to express profound concerns about the possible inclusion of an onerous electricity title in the final energy bill.

Since the beginning months of the 107th Congress, Members from the House and Senate in both political parties have worked to draft energy legislation that is good for our Nation. In 2000, both presidential candidates developed plans for our future energy needs, and President Bush asked Congress to craft comprehensive energy policy legislation. We have done that. Each chamber has approved two distinct versions of an energy bill, and there are good and bad aspects to each of them. That is why we are here today and have been meeting in conference to iron out the differences between our respective bills.

As someone who is privileged to represent rural Missouri in the United States Congress, I am particularly mindful of rural American interests, including the electric

cooperatives that power nearly all of the Fourth Congressional District. The version of the energy bill approved by the Senate includes a title dedicated to electricity. The Senate electricity provisions, which are supported by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, recognize the unique role electric cooperatives play in providing electric power to folks who live throughout the countryside.

The House-passed version of the energy bill does not include an electricity title. In fact, the House has been unable to develop a sufficient consensus to approve an electric utility restructuring bill during the 107th Congress. Such a measure failed to pass the Energy and Air Quality Subcommittee or the Energy and Commerce Committee. That is a good thing for rural electricity consumers because the House bill would not acknowledge the special private business characteristics and the unique demographics of electric cooperatives and their customers.

It has come to my attention that during the last meeting of the energy bill conference, members discussed several aspects of the House electricity reform bill. I am concerned that some members who have been long-time advocates of stringent House electricity legislation are attempting to use this conference committee to advocate their bill as the "House position" on electricity, even though the House has repeatedly been unable to find general agreement on this matter. Such action would be devastating to electric cooperatives and to the customers they serve.

Electric cooperatives have a long and distinguished history in our country. They provide private ownership to consumers of their electric utility and operate at cost. This type of ownership has been very successful in rural Missouri where population densities and revenues are low. It has also immunized electric cooperatives from the price gouging, market manipulation, and corporate malfeasance activities that have emerged in the electricity industry over the past year.

Any electricity provision approved by the conferees must carefully address the unique interests of rural America. If conferees proceed with approving the House Energy and Commerce Committee's electricity restructuring proposal as part of this energy bill, it will cause great heartburn for those of us who represent rural America. Although I have not made a determination on how I will vote on a final energy work product, the inclusion of this burdensome provision will make me think twice about supporting it. More importantly, it will lead to higher rates for rural Americans who rely on electric cooperatives for their energy needs.

LEHIGH VALLEY HERO—GRACE HART O'BOYLE

HON. PATRICK J. TOOMEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to share my Report from Pennsylvania for my colleagues and the American people.

All across Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District there are some amazing people who do good things to make our communities a better place. These are individuals of all ages who truly make a difference and help others. I like to call these individuals Lehigh Valley Heroes for their good deeds and efforts.

Today, I would like to recognize Mrs. Grace Hart O'Boyle of Bethlehem. Mrs. O'Boyle is a

prime example of someone who has devoted her life to the betterment of our communities.

Mrs. O'Boyle served the Bethlehem City Schools as a teacher at Northeast Junior High and was an active participant in the city's summer school program for many decades. Despite commitments to Brownie troops and other youth organizations, Mrs. O'Boyle found time to raise a family and her strong commitment to education and the community is reflected in her own children's education-based careers.

While most would relax in their retirement, Mrs. O'Boyle saw her retirement only as an opportunity to help her community. She continued to substitute teach and was a member of Bethlehem's Professional Woman's Association, American Association of University Women, and served with various other Organizations.

Mrs. O'Boyle is marked by her humbleness and devotion, which she exhibited on her 80th birthday. Instead of accepting the flowers and gifts that usually mark such an occasion, Mrs. O'Boyle established a Scholarship fund to help bright, dedicated students at her local parish school.

Mrs. O'Boyle stands out as an example of the effect one person can have upon their community and for this she is a Lehigh Valley Hero in my book.

Mr. Speaker, this concludes my Report from Pennsylvania.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOSEPH RAFFERTY

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of my friend and brother in the labor movement, Mr. Joseph Rafferty. Mr. Rafferty has been honored by our fellow Philadelphians by receiving the 2002 Laborers' Local Union 332 Outstanding Labor Leader Award. He has earned that honor by providing guidance and direction to Steamfitters' Local 420, the Philadelphia Building and Construction Trade Council as well as other trade councils, the Philadelphia AFL-CIO, and the entire Pennsylvania community.

In 1964, Mr. Rafferty entered Steamfitters' Local 420 for a five-year apprentice program. He went on to serve as the Assistant Business Manager, Business Agent, and is now the elected Business Manager. Under Mr. Rafferty's leadership, Local 420 actively aids the community by repairing and replacing piping, boilers, and refrigeration units for non-profit agencies. Local 420 has helped organizations such as the Ronald McDonald House, the Variety Club Camp, and the Scanlon Playground Ice Skating Rink.

Married to Frances, Joe's family includes his son Tom, his daughter Michele Quinn and his stepdaughters Eleanor and Aimee Troise. Mr. and Mrs. Rafferty have four grandchildren: Peter, Jake, Casey Leigh, and Chelsea. I am quite sure Joe's entire family is very proud of his numerous accomplishments.

It is a privilege to recognize a person whose leadership and commitment to community has enriched the lives of countless individuals. I